

CAPSULE SUMMARY
3055 Old Washington Road (CH: 578)
Charles County, Maryland

The former single-family dwelling at 3055 Old Washington Road was constructed upon the purchase of two parcels of land by Samuel G. Ryon in 1917. The building has remained in the Ryon family, despite presently being used as law offices. The house exhibits the American Four-square form, which was popular in both the suburban and rural areas of America between the 1890s and the 1920s. Located near U.S. 301, Leonardtown Road and Old Washington Road, all major roads through the region, and the Waldorf station, the property was impacted by both the railroad and the expansion of the highway system. Close to Bean Station, now known as the Waldorf Station, on the Baltimore and Potomac rail line, this house also reflects the profound influence the railroad had on development in southern Maryland.

The Colonial Revival style Four-square is two-and-one-half-stories in height and four bays wide. The house is set on a parged concrete foundation and the walls are clad in vinyl German siding. A one-story porch extends across the full width of the façade. An asphalt shingles hipped roof with wide eaves covers the dwelling.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH:578

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____
common/other name _____

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2. Location

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street & number 3055 Old Washington Road not for publication _____
city or town Waldorf vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Charles County code 17 zip code 20601

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No ☒

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Professional (office)

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Parged Concrete

Roof Hipped: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Frame: Vinyl German Siding

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1917-1950

Significant Dates 1917

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Massey , James C. and Shirley Maxwell. " The All-American Family House: A Look at the Four-Square." In *Old-House Journal*, Volume XXIII, Number 6 (November/December 1995): p. 31.

Hanchett, Thomas W. " The Four Square House Type in the United States," In *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Camille Wells, pp. 51-53. Columbia, Missouri: The University of Missouri Press for the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1987.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property .71 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 3055 Old Washington Road is designated as Parcel 162, Grid 21 as indicated on Map 8.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 3055 Old Washington Road has historically been associated with Parcel 162 since its construction in 1917.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date June 28, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

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name Gordon R. and Elizabeth A. Moreland
street & number 3050 Old Washington Road telephone _____
city or town Waldorf state MD zip code 20601

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 578

Section 7 Page 1

3055 Old Washington Road
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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The house at 3055 Old Washington Road sits on a level, grassy lot that is adorned with scattered mature trees and shrubs. A high wood fence separates the house from the outbuildings at the rear of the property. Constructed in 1917, the Colonial Revival style Four-square is two-and-one-half-stories in height and four bays wide. The house is set on a parged concrete foundation and the walls are clad in vinyl German siding. A one-story porch extends across the full width of the façade. An asphalt shingles hipped roof with wide eaves covers the dwelling.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The façade, or the southeast elevation of the building, is four bays in width. The four-bay wide porch has a concrete block pier foundation and a half-hipped asphalt shingle roof supported by wood Tuscan columns. The porch has a wood railing with square wood balusters. Behind the porch at the first story are three replacement 1/1 aluminum windows and a single leaf wood paneled door. The door has fluted moldings and bull's eye moldings. A three-light transom and one-light sidelights with paneled bases frame the entry. The second story is pierced by four replacement 1/1 aluminum windows. A gable dormer, that has been partially infilled, rises from the roof slope. It is clad in vinyl German siding and has cornice returns.

The northeast elevation has three replacement 1/1 aluminum windows at both the first and second stories. The windows are framed with wide aluminum surrounds. Cut into the foundation is a basement window opening that has been covered with screening. There is a shed roof rear porch with cornice returns visible on the northeast elevation.

The second story of the rear or northwest elevation is pierced with two replacement 1/1 aluminum windows. The shed roof porch extends across the full width of the rear elevation. The easternmost bay of the three-bay wide porch has been enclosed with vinyl German siding and a 1/1 aluminum window. The other two bays of the porch are defined by turned wood posts set in poured concrete footers.

The southwest elevation contains three replacement 1/1 aluminum sash windows at both the first and second stories. Wide aluminum surrounds frame the windows. A basement level window opening with

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screening has been cut into the parged concrete foundation.

SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:

The three outbuildings, dating from the first quarter of the twentieth century, are set to the rear of the house, behind a high wood fence. They all feature wood frame construction and are set on poured concrete foundations. The one-story, one-bay wide shed is clad in wood German siding. It has a front gable asphalt shingle roof that is extended on the façade. The one-story, two-bay wide shed features vertical board wood cladding and a standing seam metal, shed roof. The garage is one story in height and one bay in width. It is clad in vertical board wood siding and has a front gable, standing seam metal roof.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Popular throughout the nation, the Four-square provided the working and middle class with a larger, more stylish form that lacked the traditional ornamentation. Consequently, the form was cheaper to construct and fit well with an egalitarian society's demand for simple building materials that made no false claim to richness.¹ Additionally, the Four-square suited the modern building techniques and materials that ranged from conventional frames covered in weatherboard siding, shingles, or brick veneer to solid brick, cast-cement block, or poured concrete. Built above a raised basement, Four-squares were generally two or three bays wide, two- or two-and-a-half-stories high with a hipped or pyramidal roof pierced by dormers. Basically open in plan, the interior has four equally sized rooms on each floor with a side stair. The corner reception hall, parlor and dining room were all connected by open archways or large sliding doors, and only the kitchen was fully partitioned off.² Although the Four-square developed as an independent house form, these houses often contain features of the Colonial Revival or Prairie styles. Like those of the Colonial Revival style, they emphasized geometric forms, however, Four-squares do not generally feature historical elements such as Palladian windows or fanlights.

Following the Civil War, southern Maryland adjusted to shifts in economic activity and population centers. Railroads made the

1 James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "The All-American Family House: A Look at the Four-Square," *Old-House Journal*, Volume XXIII, Number 6, November/December 1995, p. 31.

2 Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Four Square House Type in the United States," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Camille Wells, (Columbia, Missouri: The University of Missouri Press for the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1987), p. 51-53.

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greatest impact upon community development in this period, particularly the completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B & P) main line from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872. Small towns grew when they became regular stops on the B & P line, and developed as service centers for the surrounding rural areas. In 1922, construction began on the Robert Crain Highway, U.S. 301's predecessor. The dependence on the automobile and the expansion of the highway, linking rural Maryland to the urban centers, contributed to the development and suburbanization of the region.

National Register Evaluation:

The house at 3055 Old Washington Road is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Not Recommended X

Comments:

Review, OPS: [Signature] Date: 11/23/98

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning
Economic

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Chain of Title:

Parcel 1

July 22, 1917: Robert A. and Maria W. Naylor to Samuel G. Ryon
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 32 Folio 14

Parcel 2

December 31, 1915: Robert A. and Maria W. Naylor to Farms Company
of Maryland
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 29 Folio 277

February 2, 1921: Farms Company of Maryland to Henry Allyn
Land Records of Charles County
Liber WMA 37 Folio 565

February 25, 1921: Henry and Lillian Allyn, Laurie Mitchell, James
P. Ryon, and W. Mitchell Diggs to R. Laurie
Mitchell, trustee
Land Records of Charles County
Liber WMA 37 Folio 574

June 6, 1921: R. Laurie Mitchell, trustee, to Tidewater
Lines, Inc.
Land Records of Charles County
Liber WMA 39 Folio 498

June 25, 1924: Tidewater Lines, Inc. to Samuel G. Ryon
Land Records of Charles County
Liber WMA 43 Folio 153

Parcels 1 and 2

April 30, 1955: Audrey Ryon Moreland and Evelyn Ryon Primeau,
heirs of Samuel G. Ryon, to Gertrude Ryon
Monroe and G. Ovelton Monroe
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 118 Folio 133

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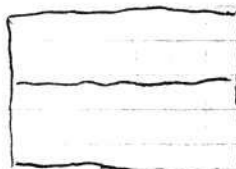
June 5, 1973:

Gertrude R. and G. Ovelton Monroe to Gordon R.
and Elizabeth A. Moreland
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 300 Folio 16

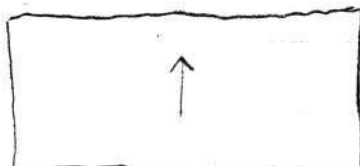
CH-578



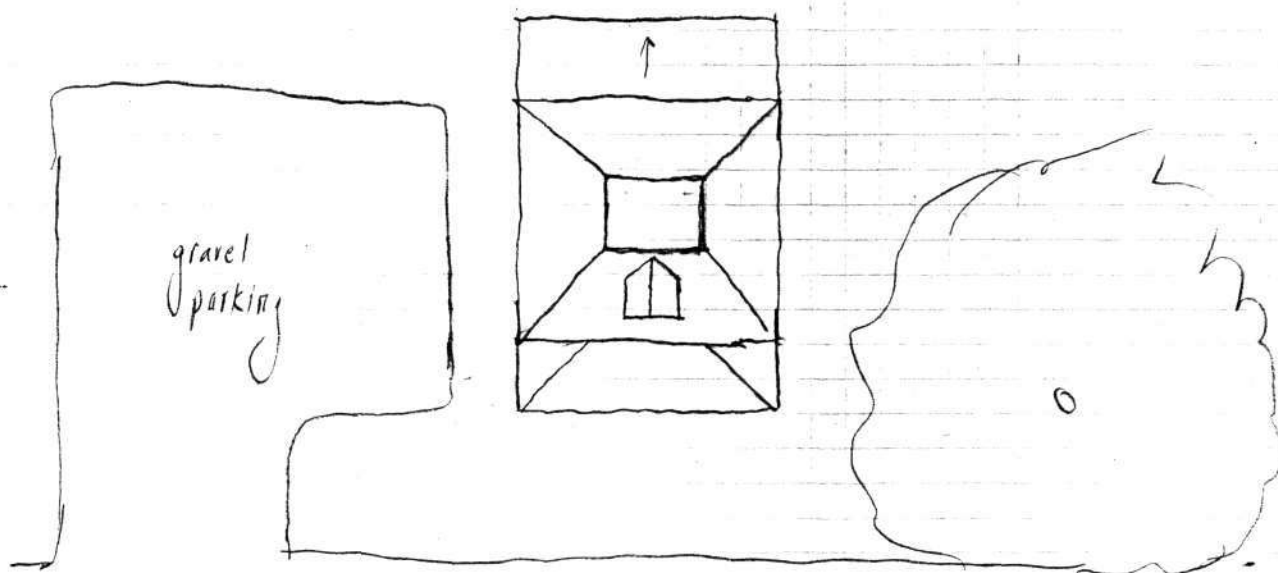
garage



shed



shed



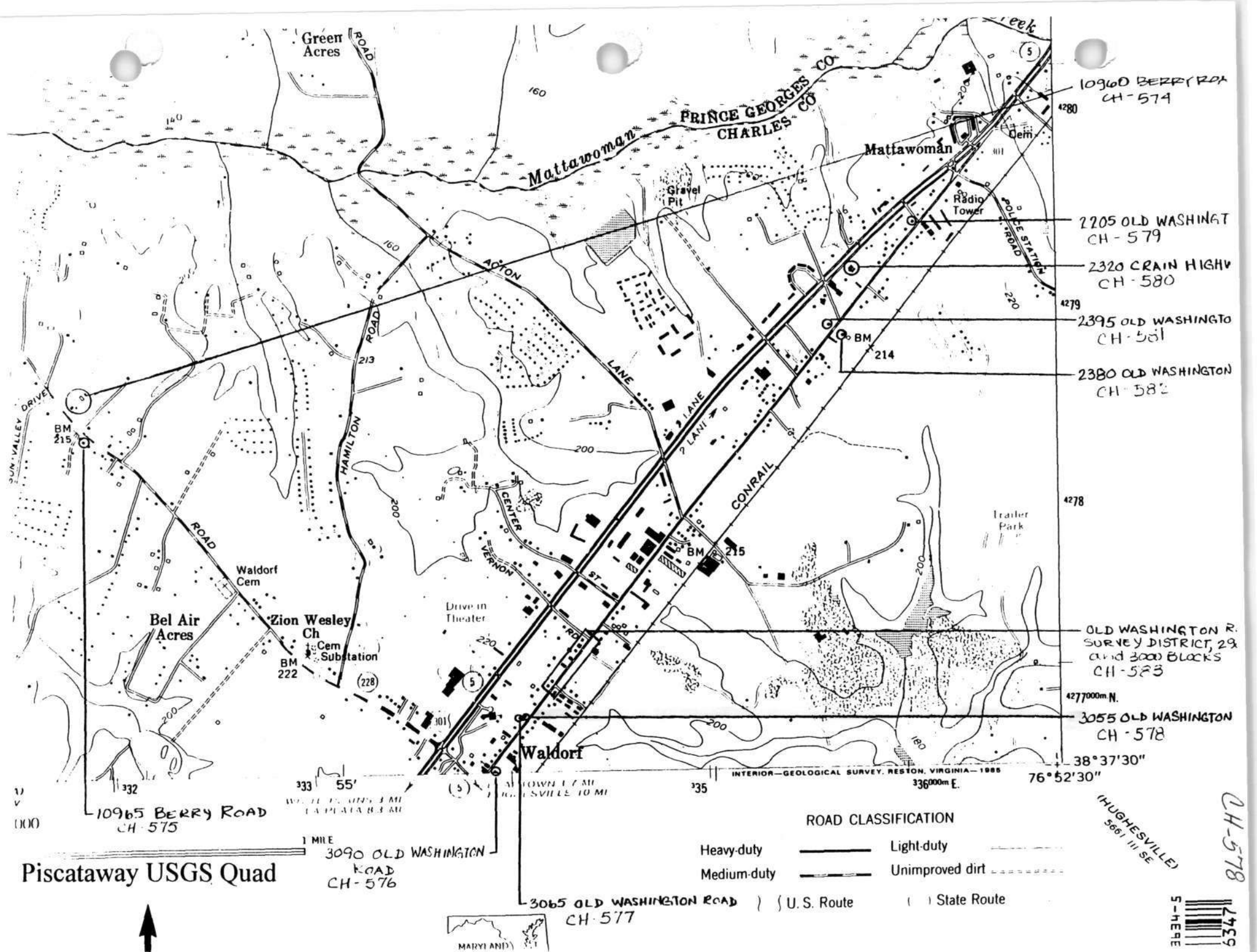
Old Washington Road

3055 Old Washington Road CH:578

Charles County
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale







CH:578

3055 Old Washington Road
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

Southeast elevation, looking northwest

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CH:578

3055 Old Washington Road
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

Northeast elevation, looking southwest

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CH1578

3055 Old Washington Road
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

Northwest elevation, looking southeast

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CH:578

3055 Old Washington Road
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

Southwest elevation, looking northeast

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CH:578

3055 Old Washington Road
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

Shed, looking north

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CH:578

3055 Old Washington Road
Charles County, MD

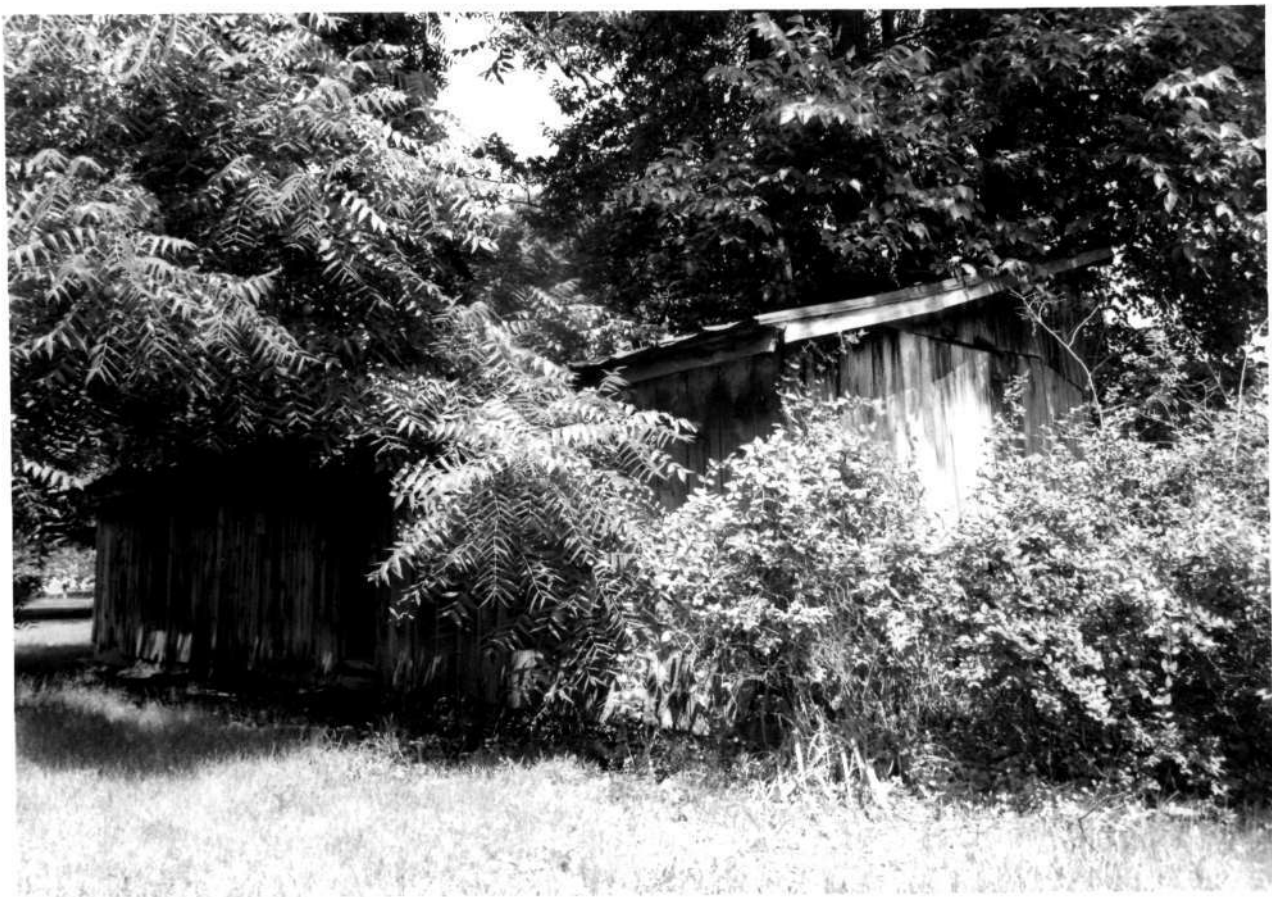
Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

Garage, looking west

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CH:578

3055 Old Washington Road
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

Shed, Looking east

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